

TRYPANOSOMA BRUCEI PLIMMER & BRADFORD, 1899
(PROTOZOA, MASTIGOPHORA): PROPOSED CONFIRMATION
OF SPELLING. Z.N.(S.)2580
(CIOMS Case No. 6)

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This application is one of several that have been generated as a result of working with the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) on an international nomenclature of diseases of man (see *Bull. zool. Nom.*, vol. 42, p. 72). In this case the familiar spelling of the specific name of an important flagellate protozoan, *Trypanosoma brucei*, is threatened by virtue of the fact that it is an incorrect subsequent spelling and hence unavailable for the purposes of nomenclature.

2. Plimmer & Bradford (1899, p. 280) established the name *Trypanosoma brucii* for a new species of protozoan from the blood of a dog. The species was named, 'in recognition of the work done in connection with it by its discoverer Major Bruce FRS'.

3. The spelling of *brucii* with the double 'i' continued in 1900 with Wasielewski & Senn (p. 458). A year later Laveran & Mesnil (1901a, b) published two papers with what appears to be the first spelling using the 'ei' ending instead of 'ii'. Strangely, this spelling was not followed by Mesnil & Gazeau (1901, p. 284) who retained the original form.

4. From 1902 onwards, with the exception of Bradford & Plimmer (1902, p. 449), the spelling *brucei* (but with the original Plimmer & Bradford (1899) authorship) became almost universally used for the specific name (e.g. Laveran & Mesnil, 1902). Even the author of the section on Protozoa in *Zoological Record* for that year, H. M. Woodcock, listed Bradford & Plimmer's paper under the spelling *brucei*.

5. Such is the importance of the organism it denotes that this spelling has appeared subsequently in thousands of references in biomedical and veterinary literature, and, although the two versions of the specific name differ by only one letter, a change would create difficulties with computerised information retrieval systems. The confusion that would be caused by reverting to the original spelling would be so great that the following support has come from Dr B. J. Cooper (Director, WHO Health and Biomedical Information Programme) and Dr Z. Bankowski (Executive Secretary, CIOMS): 'The spelling *brucei* has been in virtually universal use for many years, and we fully share your view that to revert to the original spelling would cause serious confusion. On behalf of the secretariats of both the World Health Organisation and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, therefore, we strongly support the proposal that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature be requested to use its plenary powers to rule that *Trypanosoma brucei* is deemed to be the correct original spelling and thus stabilize existing usage.'

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to rule that the correct original spelling of the specific name *brucii*, Plimmer & Bradford, 1899, as published in the binomen *Trypanosoma brucii*, is deemed to be *brucei*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *brucei* Plimmer & Bradford, 1899 as published in the binomen *Trypanosoma brucii*; spelling confirmed as in (1) above;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *brucii* Plimmer & Bradford, 1899, as published in the binomen *Trypanosoma brucii* (correct original spelling deemed to be *brucei*).

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